

The President's Daily Brief

14 December 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 December 1971

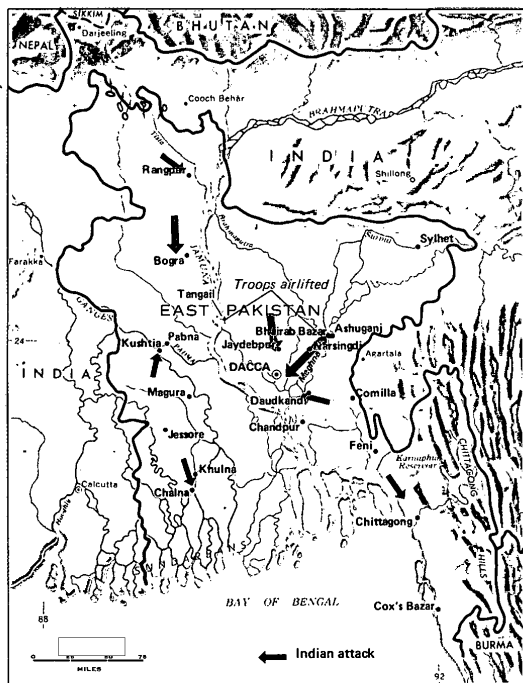
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Indians say their main force driving toward Dacca is now only six miles from the East Pakistani capital, and some local Pakistani officials are again talking of a negotiated surrender. (Page 1)

China apparently has added a ninth army to its Peking Military Region. (Page 3)

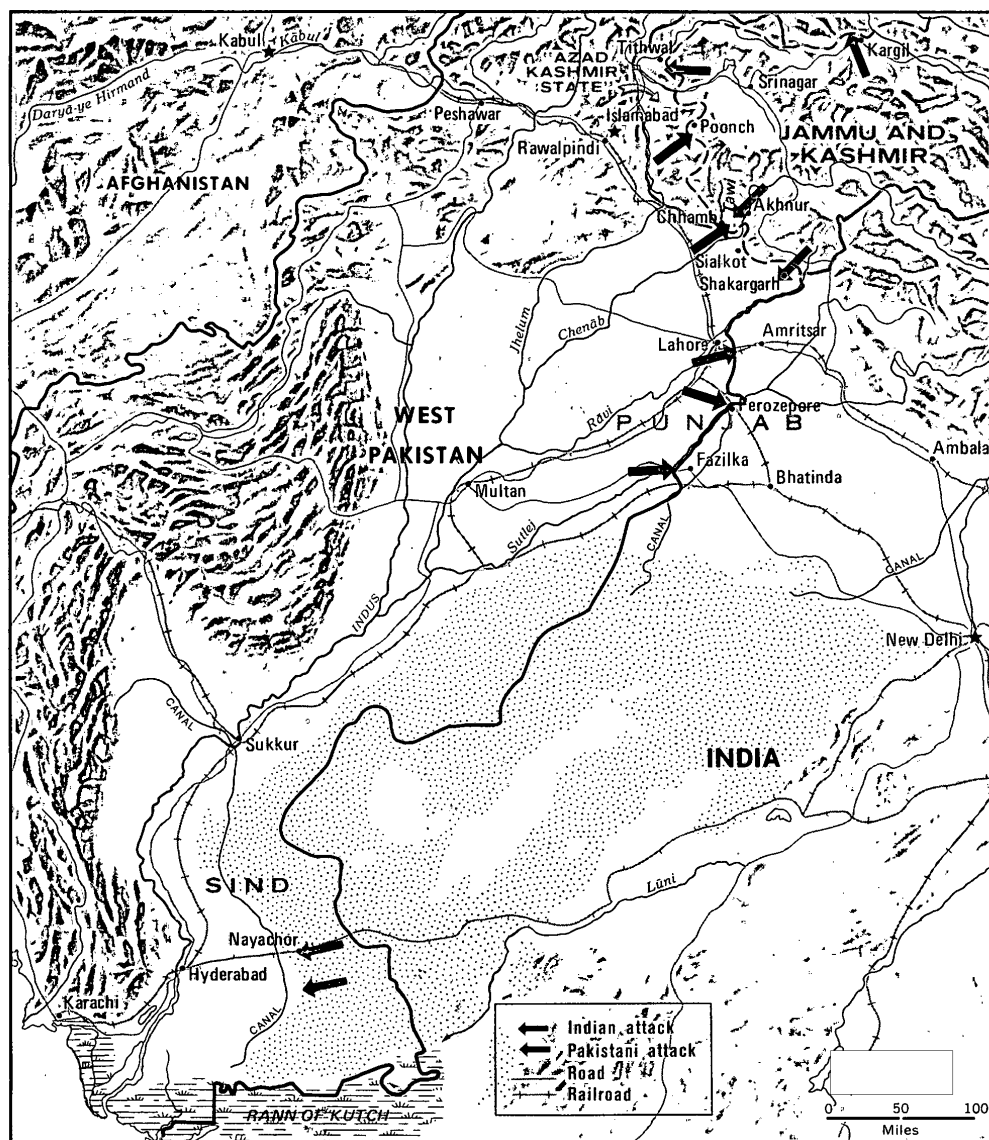
Formal signing of the inter-German and inter-Berlin agreements is likely by this weekend. (Page 3)

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INDIA-PAKISTAN

The Indians claim that their main column pushing on Dacca from the northeast has now reached the last river crossing, just six miles from the East Pakistani capital. This force, however, appears to be meeting increased Pakistani resistance. A second Indian column approaching Dacca from the south is said to have reached Jaydebpur, 12 miles from the capital. A third is still 22 miles away at Daudkandi and has yet to cross the Meghna River. The Indians say they are also making gains farther south and are now within 20 miles of Chittagong.

On the western front, the situation has remained relatively static. The Pakistanis hold the town of Chhamb in Indian Kashmir, but the Indians hold the ground to the east, across a river, and are bringing in reinforcements. Reporters have seen heavy Pakistani military traffic moving toward the Chhamb sector, suggesting preparations for a new Pakistani offensive in the area. Control of Akhnur, about 18 miles east of Chhamb, could enable Pakistani forces to cut a major transportation and supply route between northern India and Kashmir.

Major General Farman Ali, adviser to East Pakistani governor Malik, told Consul General Spivak in Dacca early today that he and Malik still hoped to arrange some kind of cease-fire with the Indian Army and Mukti Bahini to avoid a "bloodbath." He said the Pakistani Army in the East was outnumbered, cut off, and unlikely to be able to hold out more than three or four more days. Malik also told Spivak that any negotiations would be handled in Islamabad where President Yahya was discussing the situation with Ambassador Farland.

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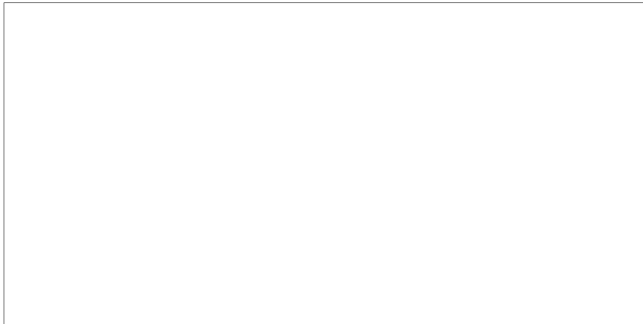
Any surrender proposal is likely to be adamantly opposed by the East Pakistani commander General Niazi, who has publicly promised to fight to the death.

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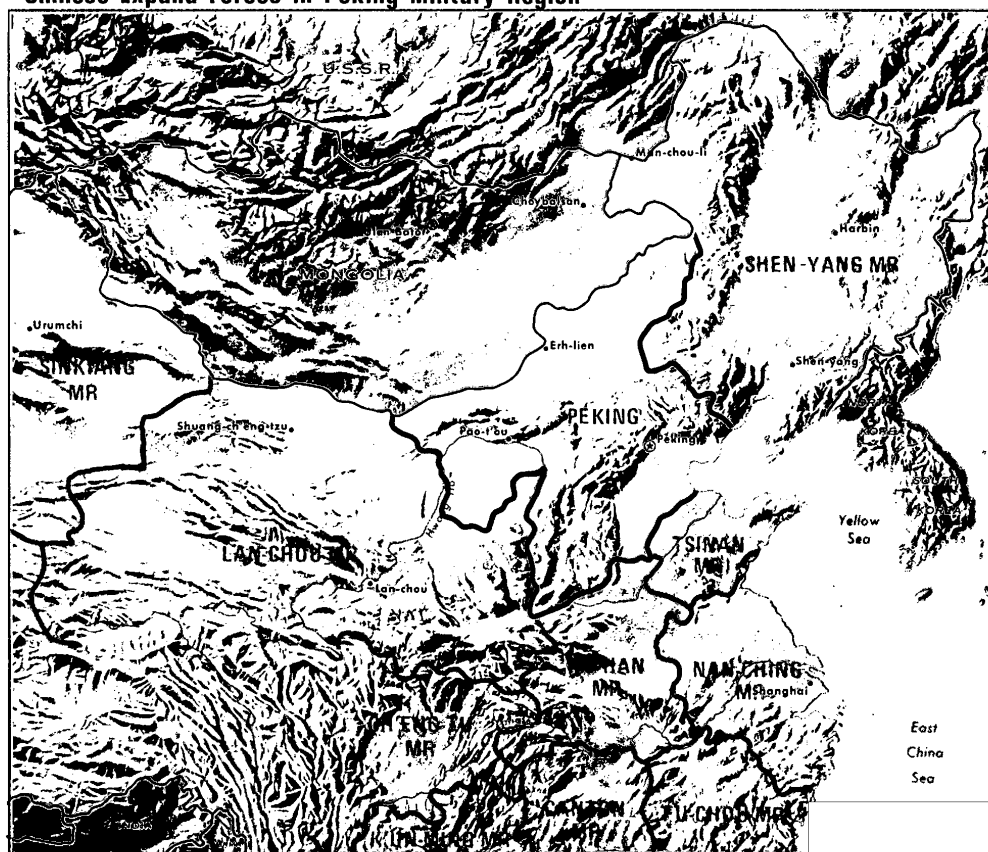
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Chinese Expand Forces in Peking Military Region



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NOTES

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Communist China:

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Chinese have established a new army in the Peking Military Region. This gives them a total of nine armies and some 320,000 men in this area and is the latest step in China's long-standing effort to strengthen its defenses near the Sino-Soviet border.

West Germany: The formal signing of the inter-Berlin and inter-German agreements, initialed on Saturday, is expected by the weekend, following Allied review of the documents. The agreements will not enter into force, however, until the signing of the final protocol of the Four-Power Berlin accord. Soviet signature, Bonn says, is contingent on ratification of its treaties with Moscow and Warsaw. The Brandt government submitted the treaties for ratification yesterday, but the process is not likely to be completed for three or four months.

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